

WHEREAS, Black History Month was adopted in 1976 to honor and affirm the importance of Black History in American history; and

WHEREAS, the history of people of African heritage includes thousands of years of some of the greatest, most advanced, and innovative societies in the history of human existence; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a time for citizens of our city, state, and country to reflect on the rich history and teachings of African-Americans and honor their progress and achievements made throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Madison was a hub for the Underground Railroad Movement due to its location on the Ohio River; and

WHEREAS, the people of Madison were some of the first to become sympathetic to, aid, and encourage the Underground Railroad movement and the emancipation of slaves; and

WHEREAS, citizens such as Patsy and Chapman Harris, Elijah and William Anderson, John Carr, Willis Ryker, George D. Baptiste, and numerous others were prominent in the Underground Railroad Movement; and

WHEREAS, Madison was home to the Broadway School- the first commissioned “colored” school in Indiana and Jefferson County is home to Elutherian College- the first college in Indiana that allowed people of color to attend; and

WHEREAS, many other churches and organizations in the African-American community such as Broadway Baptist Church, St. Stephen AME Church, and the Eureka Lodge have had a positive impact on the Madison community; and

WHEREAS, the Georgetown settlement on the west end of Madison was a prominent example of a self-supporting free black community in the 1800’s; and

WHEREAS, the black community has contributed much to the education, economic development, and culture of Madison for hundreds of years;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Damon Welch, Mayor of the City of Madison, Indiana do hereby proclaim the month of February 2012 to be

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in Madison. I encourage all Madison residents to join me in celebrating and reflecting on the creativity, cultures, traditions, and importance of African-Americans in our history and encourage everyone to participate in educational events honoring African-Americans in the City of Madison and around the world.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Madison to be affixed this 31st day of January, 2012.